

Amendments to the Claims

23. (Currently Amended) A sandwich immunoassay, which is specific for detecting ~~mammalian human~~ human γ -brain natriuretic peptide (γ -BNP) ~~derivatives, the mammalian γ -BNP derivatives~~ having a carboxy terminus portion including α -BNP and having an amino terminus portion which does not include α -BNP, said sandwich immunoassay comprising:

- (a) an immunoassay solution,
- (b) a first antibody in said immunoassay solution, said first antibody being specifically reacted with the carboxy terminus portion of a ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP ~~derivative~~, and
- (c) a second antibody in said immunoassay solution, said second antibody being specifically reacted with the amino terminus portion of said ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP ~~derivative~~ and which is not reacted with the carboxy terminus portion of said ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP ~~derivative~~.

24. (Currently amended) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein said ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP ~~derivative~~ comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acid Nos. 27-134 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

25. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein said second antibody is reacted with the amino acid sequence of amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

26. (Currently amended) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein said ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP ~~derivative~~ comprises the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of nucleic acid Nos. 79-402 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

27. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein said second antibody is reacted with the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of nucleic acid Nos. 79-306 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

28. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is labeled with a detectable label or is immobilized.

29. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 28, wherein said detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance, or a particle.

30. (Currently amended) A sandwich immunoassay kit, which is specific for detecting ~~mammalian human γ -BNP derivatives, the mammalian γ -BNP derivatives~~ having a carboxy terminus portion including α -BNP and having an amino terminus portion which does not include α -BNF, said sandwich immunoassay kit comprising:

(a) as a first component, a first antibody which is specifically reactive with the carboxy terminus portion of a ~~mammalian human γ -BNP derivative~~, and

(b) as a second component, a second antibody which is specifically reactive with the amino terminus portion of said ~~mammalian human γ -BNP derivative~~ and which is not specifically reactive with the carboxy terminus portion of said ~~mammalian human γ -BNP derivative~~.

31. (Currently amended) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein said ~~mammalian human γ -BNP derivative~~ comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acid Nos. 27-134 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

32. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein said second antibody is reacted with the amino acid sequence of amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

33. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is labeled with a detectable label or is immobilized.

34. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 33, wherein said detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance, or a particle.

35. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 33, which further comprises a means for detecting the label.

36. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

37. (Previously presented) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

38. (Currently amended) A method for assaying for ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP derivatives, ~~the mammalian γ -BNP derivatives~~ having a carboxy terminus portion including α -BNP and having an amino terminus portion which does not include α -BNP, comprising the steps of:

contacting a sample solution to be assayed with a first antibody, said first antibody specifically reacting with the carboxy terminus portion of a ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP derivative, and contacting the sample solution with a second antibody, said second antibody specifically

reacting with the amino terminus portion of said ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP ~~derivative~~ and not reacting with the carboxy terminus portion of said ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP ~~derivative~~, and measuring the amount of ~~mammalian~~ human γ -BNP ~~derivatives~~ in the sample solution to which the first antibody and the second antibody is reacted.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is labeled with a detectable label or is immobilized.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein said detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance, or a particle.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is a polyclonal antibody.